

## Message Text

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ACTION MBFR-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-12 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

NEA-10 GAC-01 TRSE-00 SAI-01 OIC-04 AEC-11 ACDA-19

OMB-01 RSR-01 /153 W

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P R 241000 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8971

INFO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

ALL MBFR CAPITALS 495

USMISSION GENEVA

USNMR SHAPE

USLOSACLANT

USCINCEUR

USDOCOSOUTH

USDEL SALT TWO II

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 4325

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PARM

SUBJECT: MBFR: UK ACCOUNT OF ONFORMAL MEETING OF UK, FRG,  
NETHERLANDS, US, SOVIET AND CZECH REPS, EVENING OF MAY 22,  
1973

GENEVA FOR DISTO

FROM US REP MBFR

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. FOLLOWING IS ACCOUNT PRESENTED BY UK REP  
IN AD HOC MEETING OF MAY 23 OF DISCUSSION WITH SOVIET AND  
CZECH REPS ON PREVIOUS EVENING IN WHICH ALLIED REPS PRESENTED  
THEIR VIEW THAT POINT HAD BEEN REACHED TO LEAVE AGENDA ASIDE  
FOR DISCUSSION DURING THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS AND MOVE ON TO  
DISCUSSION OF COMMUNIQUE. SOVIET RESPONSE WAS CAUTIOUS AND  
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NON- COMMITTAL, BUT NOT NEGATIVE. END SUMMARY

2. BEGIN TEXT OF UK REPORT:

1. THE SOVIET REPRESENTATIVE AND THE CZECHOSLOVAK REPRESENTATIVE TOGETHER WITH TWO MEMBERS OF THE FORMER'S DELEGATION MET INFORMALLY ON 22 MAY WITH THE NETHERLANDS, US AND UK REPRESENTATIVES AND THE GERMAN ACTIG REPRESENTATIVE. THIS GATHERING HAD BEEN ARRANGED SEVERAL DAYS IN ADVANCE AND MOST OF THE TALK WAS OF A PURELY SOCIAL NATURE. HOWEVER WHEN THE EVENING WAS WELL ADVANCED THE QUESTION WAS RAISED OF WHAT THE POLISH REPRESENTATIVE HAD MEANT TO IMPLY BY HIS FINAL REMARKS AT THE MEETING OF THE INFORMAL PROBING TEAMS THE SAME AFTERNOON.

2. THE EASTERN REPRESENTATIVES OFFERED NO EXPLANATION BUT SEEMED TO AGREE WHEN THE WESTERN REPRESENTATIVES SUGGESTED THAT MR. STRULAK WAS RECOGNISING CORRECTLY THAT IT WOULD BE A VERY DIFFICULT AND LONG PROCESS FOR THE TWO SIDES TO EVOLVE AN AGENDA ON THE BASIS OF THEIR EXISTING INSTRUCTIONS. THE WESTERN REPRESENTATIVES HAMMERED HOME THE POINT THAT THEIR INSTRUCTIONS WERE FIRM, THEIR ARGUMENTS LOGICAL, THEIR FORMULATIONS NEUTRAL AND THEIR INTENTION TO RAISE THE TOPICS MENTIONED IN THE COURSE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS ABSOLUTE. THE SOVIET REPRESENTATIVE INDICATED THAT HIS SIDE COULD NOT ACCEPT THE WESTERN PROPOSALS.

3. THE UK REPRESENTATIVE SAID THAT IN THE LIGHT OF THE INABILITY OF THE EASTERN SIDE TO MOVE AT ALL IN THE DIRECTION OF THE WEST IT WAS UNDERSTANDABLE THAT THE POLISH REPRESENTATIVE SHOULD HAVE RAISED THE QUESTION OF " WHAT DO WE DO NEXT". THE UK REPRESENTATIVE CONTINUED THAT BOTH SIDES WERE GENERALLY AGREED THAT WE SHOULD IF POSSIBLE FINISH THESE TALKS BY ABOUT THE END OF THIS MONTH. THE EASTERN SIDE RAISED A QUESTION-MARK ABOUT THIS STATEMENT BUT DID NOT DISPUTE IT. THE UK REPRESENTATIVE SAID THAT IT WAS NECESSARY TO DECIDE ON THE TIME, PLACE AND DESCRIPTION FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS IN THE AUTUMN AS WELL AS ON THE AGENDA. HE SAID THAT BOTH SIDES COULD OF COURSE GRIND AWAY AT THE AGENDA PROBLEM BUT UNLESS THE EAST WAS ABLE TO ACCEPT SOMETHING ALMOST IDENTICAL WITH THE WESTERN PROPOSALS HE BELIEVED THE PROCESS WOULD BE DIFFICULT AND LONG.

4. THE UK REPRESENTATIVE SUGGESTED THAT IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES WE MIGHT ALL TAKE ANOTHER APPROACH TO THE PROBLEM. WE COULD

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ALL AGREE:

( A ) TO POSTPONE UNTIL THE NEGOTIATIONS FURTHER DISCUSSION ON AN AGENDA AS SUCH:

( B ) TO RESERVE THE RIGHT ON BOTH SIDES TO RETURN TO OUR RESPECTIVE PROPOSALS IN THE AUTUMN NEGOTIATIONS; ( THE UK REPRESENTATIVE SAID THE WEST CONSIDERED THAT ALL THE ASPECTS THEY HAD RAISED WOULD HAVE TO BE ADDRESSED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS

AND THAT THEY INTEND TO DO SO);

( C) TO SHIFT OUR FOCUS FROM THE EFFORT TO DEFINE  
AN AGENDA, TO THE EFFORT TO FIND AN AGREED DISCRIPTION OF THE  
SUBJECT MATTER OF THE NEGOTIATIONS INCLUDING AN AGREED FORMULATION  
OF THEIR OBJECTIVES.

5. THE UK REPRESENTATIVE SAID THAT IF BOTH SIDES APPROACHED  
THE MATTER IN THIS WAY THERE WAS ALREADY A CERTAIN AMOUNT  
OF AGREEMENT ON CONCEPTS PUT FORWARD IN STATEMENTS MADE AT  
THE PLENARY MEETINGS. IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT THESE COULD BE PUT  
INTO AN AGREED COMMUNIQUE. IF WE SET ASIDE UNTIL THE AUTUMN  
THE ATTEMPT TO DEFINE AN AGENDA WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO FIND AGREED  
LANGUAGE FOR A COMMUNIQUE  
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\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

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GENEVA  
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